Since its beginnings in the early 1990s, the use of genetically modified organisms (GMO) in farming has become increasingly controversial. GMOS’s are living organisms whose genetic material has been artificially manipulated in a laboratory through genetic engineering known as GE. Former biotech engineer Thierry Vain explains on one of the many informative TED talks (a nonprofit organization dedicated to spreading information and ideas.) GMO involves the manipulation or creation of a gene or certain part of DNA of said organism. The insertion of another gene usually comes from another plant or animal. Reported by The Non-GMO project; a nonprofit organization dedicated to educating people about GMO’s.

Vain explains that the companies that supported this technology, like biotech and pharmaceuticals were chemical companies, which transformed into what we are now referred to as a biotech company.

“This technology was not tested before being used on plants, medicine, and animals and now to people,” says Vain.

The corn and soy plants that are now everywhere in our environment are registered as insectsicides. However these insecticidal plants and their proteins have not been tested by the federal departments that are in charge of food safety in the U.S. and Canada, according to points made by Vain. Vain’s short 22 minute video lecture talks about the realistic fears of Genetic Engineering and the problems it has caused, as well as the negative impact it could have on the future. Laboratories like Monsanto wanted crops that were resistant to weeds and insects, so they composited stronger chemicals that would help ward off pests and weeds.

“Genetic Engineering was created for a specific reason. To generate crops that could coincide with the new pesticides and herbicides these biotech companies have produced.” Vain explains. Vain goes on to explain that, after these crops were put into use it led to something called resistant weeds. These weeds have become resistant to these new pesticides.

Insects have also built up a tolerance to insecticide which is leading companies to want to create even more potent chemicals which will lead to a vicious cycle. Another serious issue is genetic pollution. The genes created for these modified organisms hold bacteria and that for bacteria can move from gene to gene. So the GM farm that lives next to the organic farm now runs the risk of being infected with that new form of bacteria from the GM farm. That runoff leads to the organic crops dying because of the unknown bacteria. Vain explains. The Institute of Science in Society (ISIS) performed a study surveying 6 major rivers in China. They found in 4 of the 6 rivers, a bacteria gene that was created in a lab. This bacterium is referred to as a bla gene. “A bla gene confers resistance to a wide range of therapeutic antibiotics and the widespread environmental pollution with bla-resistant bacteria is a major public health concern,” ISIS reported. This opened up a new string of problems like toxic proteins and allergens. Since now news of these problems has continued on pg 2.

**CMA: The future of demise of agriculture?**

**PHOTO CREDIT:** GENETICLITERACYPROJECT.ORG

**PHOTO CREDIT:** SARA SANDERSON

**PHOTO CREDIT:** VAIN EXPLAINS.
GMO: The future or demise of agriculture?

By Sara Sanderson

November 12, 2015

Bucks News

Letters to the editor:

Email your letters to Bucks@bucks.edu. Letters must include the writer and must be signed. Letters must be no longer than 500 words. They will be edited for spelling, space and malicious or libelous statements. Letters must be the original work of the writer and must be signed. For identification purposes, authors will be asked to provide the writer’s full name and telephone number.

GMO awareness supporter

PHOTO CREDIT: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

The Linksz Pavillion Transfer Fair from 12-2pm in the Performing Arts Center. University 8:30am. Performing Arts Center 8:30am. High Carbon 8pm.


As stressful as plan- ning your schedule maybe, keep your head up and stay optimistic. There is a solution to just about everyone’s but the first step to any of those solutions is communication. Use your voice and make sure your concerns are heard, contrary to what some may tell you, so you can still have a healthy lifestyle and really do care about the students of BCCC and you want to help. So help by your professor’s office, advising department, student services and voice your concerns, because you are the huge piece of solving the problem.

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Bucks holds event in conjunction with Domestic Violence Awareness month

To increase awareness about domestic violence and the risk of sexual assault, Bucks invited Christina Baer, director of A Woman's Place (AWP), to educate students about the steps they could take to protect themselves and the services that are available on campus.

The event took place on Oct. 9 since October is Domestic Violence Awareness month.

As the current head of AWP, Baer has been educating and counseling people on how to guard against domestic violence for more than five years. During her hour-long presentation, Baer described how domestic violence could progress between two people who are involved in a relationship and the general impact that such abuse could have on the victim.

Baer said that one of the partners could start exhibiting excessive behavior when he or she feels rejected in a short amount of time without waiting for an answer or showing a constant need to know about the whereabouts of his or her partner.

One of the most pressing issues facing young couples, according to Baer, is how to set appropriate boundaries. The difficulty seems to lie in the fact that boundary-setting runs counter to the impulse of wanting to please one's partner as much as possible. Thus, since boundary-setting actions could cause friction or displeasure, many couples might be reluctant to take that step.

Baer said that this reluctance is even greater when it comes to sexual contact. It could be particularly hard for a woman to say “no” to her partner, but Baer emphasized that this is an important step that must be taken in a relationship. To that end, Baer encouraged students to establish proper boundaries.

By policing those boundaries vigilantly, Baer indicated that women would be less likely to become victims of domestic violence or non-consensual sex. She also stressed that anyone could end up in an abusive relationship.

It is an issue that resonated personally with Baer because she has a friend who was a victim of domestic violence. Baer’s friend was threatened with a baseball bat by her boyfriend during an altercation.

Oftentimes, there are many abusers who would try to rationalize their behavior. She told the students “nothing could justify these types of behavior” because such “abuse is a conscious choice.”

In an interview after her presentation, Baer said she wants students to keep in mind that when involved in a relationship, they have the right to respect and be respected by their partners. For the male participants, Baer showed a short video that depicted the importance of seeking consent.

The video is entitled “Seven A’s of Hooking Up.” It is a response to a letter written by a fraternity member giving advice on “luring your rapebait.”

In the video, Jamie Utt stressed that a guy should ask a girl for her consent before attempting to do anything, that kissing, inviting her to his room, or engaging in any sexual activities.

Carey Thomas, a criminal justice major from Trevose, reacted to the presentation by saying that the information provided by the lecture could greatly benefit a relationship since the information could guide one on how to treat one’s partner with respect.

The lecture was also well received by Carey Nickey, who is also from Trevose and majoring in social work.

Nickey stressed the importance of having such information available to college students.

Deb Smith, the director of counseling services and student workers, who organized the lecture, said, “The goal of the event is to empower students so that if anything were to happen to them, they would know what to do.”

Smith also mentioned that she wants students to know where they can go for help, what their rights are and all the counseling services that are accessible to them on campus.

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Christian Club welcomes those who want to increase their knowledge of Christ

By: Megan Holmes

The Bucks Inter-varsity Christian Fellowship’s mission is, “To be open to anyone who is questioning the credibility of Christianity, the relevance of Jesus Christ or seeking Christian fellowship.” The club has been around for more than eight years, according to the facilitator of the group, Pastor Brian Weed from Calvary Chapel of Philadelphia. It meets on Wednesdays at 12 p.m. in the Solarium at the Newtown Campus.

Weed says, “We’ve found that God fills the void that a lot of people didn’t even know they had. The group has been a great place for people to connect for years.” The group has a regular attendance of about 15. Naomi Thompson, 19, one of the regulars, said that the group has been growing the past few weeks.

The president, Lance Zartar, 20, said, “We would love for anybody to come out and join us. This would be a good way to ask questions and get involved. You don’t have to be a Christian.” However, he said it is generally a group of people who share the same beliefs.

The secretary of the group, Toni Valentini, 19, said, “The main purpose of it is to find Jesus’ loving community on campus” and that the group is “close knit.” Some students in the group attend Calvary Chapel of Philadelphia. “Outside of the meetings we like to reach out. We give away water ice to kids when it is warm outside and hot chocolate when it is cold,” says Valentini. Thompson, who started attending this semester, said she “goes to grow relationships with people that have the same beliefs” and to grow in her own faith.

She stated, “We’re still all getting to know each other but it helps that we all have a common topic to talk about and a great pastor to facilitate.” Sam Bair, 18, said that the group is “a good place to meet new people and learn about the Bible.” Cassandrea Flor, 19, agreed, saying she “Really likes having people that you can talk about your faith with and connect to,” and thinks that “Having that is one of the most important things in your life.” She went on to encourage newcomers. “It’s a nice group of people if you want to check out the faith, and you don’t have to commit. There is no pressure.”

Flor added, “It is a great opportunity to make genuine friendships and to discover truth. Plus now I see familiar faces on campus and it’s really nice.” Gabrielle Martin, 19, adds that the group is a “Good place to be able to open up about your views on Christianity.”

Thompson says the group, later on in the semester, will be collecting diapers for single moms. Pastor Brian Weed also said that they are planning to do an outreach to benefit local homeless shelters.

Valentini said she “Encourages people to come out because it is a safe place to ask honest questions about the Christian faith. It is a loving community, growing in the knowledge of Christ.”

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On Thursday, Oct. 22, at around 1:15 pm, a student reported their vehicle, a silver 1995 Nissan Sentra, stolen from parking lot A. The director of Security and Safety at Bucks, Dennis McCauley, says that the stolen vehicle was reported via the emergency call box.

Security officers first searched the school parking lots, to ensure that the car was indeed stolen, and not simply misplaced. “Sometimes we get these reports and the person forgot where they parked it, which lot. So we spent a lot of time looking around, ultimately determining that it wasn’t in any of the lots,” says McCauley.

As of Nov. 5, the student reports that the car has still not been recovered, and Bucks security currently has no leads as to who the thief may be. “No one has been accused or arrested in the case,” says McCauley.

Car thefts on campus are, as McCauley states, “very, very unusual,” and until Thursday, one hadn’t occurred since 2007.

Despite this, security advises students to take simple precautions such as double checking that they’ve locked their car, keeping their keys on them at all times, and keeping any valuables inside their car hidden from view. McCauley said crime on campus tends to spike during April and October, but normally consists of “either graffiti or thefts of small items like cellphones. Typically that happens because the student left their property unattended. So they set their cell phone down and walked away from it. We always recommend students not to leave valuable items unattended.”

Benjamin DeGraffinried, 24 who is a Business Administration major from Yardley believes that, “There should be cameras out there, maybe even more staff.” DeGraffinried also added, “I’m surprised I haven’t heard anything about it; no text messages or emails.”

Jackie Nem, a 19-year-old Business Administration major from Langhorne was unaware of the incident as well saying, “That blows my mind.” Nem added that security should possibly increase the frequency of their patrols. Update on this matter will be reported as they develop. For now, it’s best to keep an extra eye out for suspicious activity, and report anything to security.
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Professors honored for their hard work

By: Johnny Cohen and Carly Pendegast
Centurion Staff

A ceremony was held this past Thursday Nov. 5 to recognize the contributions that professors at Bucks have made to their respective fields, extending outside of the college.

These professors’ impressive works include pieces of art work, entire art shows, published works, published books, awarded books, award-ed articles, the composition of orchestras and music, ground breaking research, grants, certifications, presentations, panels, and much more.

These professor’s works benefit not only themselves but the college. For example, Linda Ridlison, a professor in the Math and Science department received a grant that Bucks will see about $400,000 of.

Tony Rogers, a professor in the journalism department, posts frequently to his About.com website; these posts offer tips to up-and-coming journalist on how to improve their writing techniques. Rogers’ page attracts anywhere between 100,000 and 200,000 page views a month.

Another professor whose work can be physically seen is Raymond O’Brien, a professor in the geography and social and behavioral science department here at Bucks. O’Brien very recently has had a new book published entitled “The Story of Bucks County.”

This book covers Bucks County’s history from its inception, to current day, changes in Bucks County’s history, geography and folklore.

“The book includes a lot of student input,” states O’Brien. He also added, “Residents of Bucks County (mainly students) find that, of all the sights, landmarks and things to experience in Bucks - that our College was their favorite thing.”

Recognition was given to over 50 professors for all the hard work they have done to better past year.

President Shanblatt stated, “I know that being a full time faculty member is a busy job, and yet so many of you want to share what you’ve learned beyond the classroom, or your research or creative experiences; whether it’s writing, poetry, music or art… it’s really quite wonderful. I might ask when you have time to sleep.”

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> TRANSFER TUESDAY
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By: Johnny Cohen
Centurion Staff

Cable television’s biggest series, “The Walking Dead,” on AMC returns for its sixth season after an incredible run with season five. So far, things look promising as the show has thrown us right into the middle of some intense gore and pandemonium. But if you think the TV series is great, then you’ll absolutely love the comic book series. For those who don’t know, “The Walking Dead” actually started out as a comic book series written by the show’s executive producer, Robert Kirkman, and released by Image Comics.

Since the comic books were the starting point for the show, they have had a little bit of a head start on the story. There are some characters that have already been killed off before they’ve even joined the cast on the TV show. So for avid readers of the comics, you have some idea of what will happen next on the TV show.

Liberal Arts major Forrester Somsanith, 19, of Holland says, "I got pretty busy and just fell out of the loop on the show. I guess I stopped watching around the end of season two. I’ve been super eager to get back into it. I’ve seen some trailers on TV. There’s people I’ve never seen before and it looks like a lot has happened to the characters since I last saw them."

What’s neat about the TV show and the comics is that one isn’t a mirror image of the other. There are some dark and brutal things that have happened in the comics that simply did not happen in the show – sometimes for the better.

Nursing major Mikayla Stunk, 20, of Warminster states, “It’s the best show ever – it’s just so terrifying to watch. You’re imagining the show and you’re just imagining yourself in the situation of these characters. Rick used to be such a nice guy. He’d be trying to do the right thing, but ever since he ripped out that guy’s throat, he’s been crazy!”

There are also things about the comics that lovers of the show will hate. For instance, Merle and Daryl Dixon are non-existent in the comic book series.

Don’t let this discourage you from reading, though. What’s great about the comic books is that because of these dark and gritty plot points, readers will find that they grow to love certain characters in the comics that they could care less about in the TV show; and vice-versa. Strunk states, “Glenn used to be such an innocent baby, and now he’s a tough, hard-core dude.”

Things will happen to characters like Tyreese, Gilson, Carl and even Rick that will leave you unconditionally shocked. That doesn’t mean you have to go spend roughly $4 on each issue, though. As a way to save some money and time searching for each issue, “The Walking Dead” volumes are available to readers. Each volume contains six issues, and currently, there have been 25 volumes released. If that still seems like too much digging around, the series also has “The Walking Dead” compendiums, which contain about eight volumes each.

The first compendium is comprised of issues 1-48. The second compendium continues the series with issues 49-96, and the third compendium (just released in October), includes issues 99-144. Amazon sells each compendium for roughly $30 to $35.

If you are short on the cash for all three books, there are some public libraries that carry the compendiums. They are quite sought after though, so it’s best to be diligent and keep an open eye to when they’re available to check out.

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November 12, 2015
Bucks-News.com @Centurion_Bucks
The story behind AHS’s newest season: Hotel

The “American Horror Story” (AHS) series has been known for its intriguing and disturbing story lines and characters, and this year’s season, Hotel, is continuing to keep viewers on their toes with this horrifying background story to the inspiration behind this season.

The new season premiered last month with the excitement formed around the news that Lady Gaga had a main role in the newest season as the Hotel’s 115-year-old wardie, “The Countess.” This is also the first season where the show’s leading lady, Jessica Lange, is no longer where the show’s leading lady, Jessica Lange, is no longer involved in the cast.

After the filming of Murder House (2011), Asylum (2012), Coven (2013), Freak Show (2014), the production of Hotel was made for this year’s terrifying season.

The story is based in downtown Los Angeles in the haunted Hotel Cortez, where we are introduced to some main characters that will be displayed throughout the season.

Without giving the season away, here is the true background story on why Hotel seemed scary enough to go with for the newest setting for AHS to be based upon.

The inspiration was based on the strange main motivation for this season in the making of this season in particular.

What is even creepier then the show itself, is the inspiration the producers had behind the creation of this season. Without giving the season away, here is the true background story on why Hotel seemed scary enough to go with for the newest setting for AHS to be based upon.

The inspiration was based on the strange main motivation for this season in the making of this season in particular.

In its dark history, known for having been home to serial killers, murderers, and the paranormal, this place is claimed to be cursed. The most recent event and main motivation for this season was based on the strange death of a young student from Canada named, Ellis Lam who had come to stay at the Cecil. The 23-year-old’s body was found after she had drowned, decomposing in the rooftop water tanks of the hotel on Feb. 19 2013.

The investigation later turned up very strange video from the hotel elevator from two weeks before Lam’s body was discovered. The tape shows Lam going into the elevator alone, then proceeding to press all of the buttons on the panel, and then walking out slowly.

She then begins to wave her hands around and it appears that she is having a conversation with someone who isn’t even there then, the elevator door closes and she walks away.

Investigators say she made her way to the water tanks after the incident on the elevator; the water tanks are seemingly impossible to get into. There were also no drugs or alcohol found in the Lam’s autopsy report. After residents start complaining about the disorientation and taint in the water is when Lam’s body was discovered. The tape shows Lam going into the elevator alone, then proceeding to press all of the buttons on the panel, and then walking out slowly.

What is even creepier then the show itself, is the inspiration the producers had behind the creation of this season. Makes the show that much more interesting. Now into its fifth episode, it is claimed to be the scariest season of AHS so far.

Inglourious Basterds portrays an anti-war story of the whole Peanut gang, including Charlie Brown, Snoopy, Lucy, Linus, and the rest of the gang, as they travel through a heroic quest, while Snoopy battles his nemesis the Red Baron. It has received great reviews and is fun for the whole family.

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“Spectre”

“Spectre” hit the theaters Friday the Nov. 6th as the fourth installment of the latest James Bond saga. Following “SkyFall,” “Spectre” brought in $70.4M in its first weekend of release, making it the No. 1 film in the box office. Christoph Waltz reprises his role as Franz Oberhauser and is up against Daniel Craig as James Bond. With many more paranormal surprises that appear in this film, the creepy story line behind the creation of this season, makes the show that much more interesting. Now into its fifth episode, it is claimed to be the scariest season of AHS so far.

“Spectre”

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Temple Owls soar to new heights, but will it last?

On Saturday Oct. 31, an undefeated No.21 ranked Temple Owls squad fell short against national powerhouse Notre Dame 24-20 thanks to a late touchdown throw by Fighting Irish quarterback DeShone Kizer, but for many this still felt like a win. 69,250 fans crowded for the Owls in a sold out Lincoln Financial Field and a wave of cherry red overflowed parking lots from sunrise to sun down in perhaps the largest show in Temple Owls football history.

Both teams were ranked inside the Top 25 and have been playing at a high level all season. ESPN’s lead game show “College GameDay” was aired in front of Independence Hall with fans flooding the streets and the game was televised in the premiere time slot for college football -- 8 p.m. on ABC.

For what may have seemed like the first time ever, the Owls were playing in a football game with actual significance. Temple students and Philadelphia alike are ecstatic with the newly found attention and success of the team. But will they soon fall back to mediocrity as they did in 2006?

For a program that has seen just six winning seasons since 1979 it would be easy to say that this moment was the peak of Temple football history, while others believe that this is just the beginning of a great resurgence for both the team and the program in general.

Cody Sterner, 19, business administration major from Quakertown says, “I think this team has established a winning culture that will last. Rather than a one-year wonder.”

Critics who believe that Temple has reached their peak of success will be quick to point to the short-lived success of former head coach Al Golden. Golden took the job in 2006 and after enduring three consecutive losing seasons he was able to lead the Owls to a 5-3 record and their first postseason game since 1979. A similar hysteria rose around the program then as there is now.

After going 9-4 the following season Golden accepted a new job at the University of Miami and Temple quickly returned to their losing form. From 2011-2014 the team failed to achieve a winning record and once again became an afterthought in the minds of many fans. Naturally, some students draw comparisons between that situation and the current one.

Nathan Weaver, 19, business management major from Quakertown says, “I think it’s awesome that they can play with the top teams, but soon their coach [Matt Rhule] will leave and it’ll be same old Temple.”

Due to their past experiences or head coaches leaving town for better jobs, Temple fans have tempered their expectations. But is there reason to believe that the success this Temple football team can be sustained?

Anthony Dincer, 19, business administration major from Sellersville notes that there a lot of differences between this year’s team and teams of the past, he explains “One difference would be the change in conferences. In 2009 – the peak of Golden’s success – Temple came in third in the Mid-American Conference (MAC). They now play in the highly competitive American Athletic Conference (The American). The American is considered to be the best conference for teams that are not traditional powers; this is evident in the fact that they have three teams nationally ranked inside the Top 25.”

Another clear cut difference between the two situations is the quality of competition that Temple faced in 2009 compared to now. During the team’s previous stint of success they would have never even thought of competing on the same field as Notre Dame or Penn State – who they defeated earlier this season for the first time since 1941. In contrast, it could be argued that Temple’s biggest win in 2009 was against Toledo, a vastly inferior team to both Penn State and Notre Dame.

“I think Temple football can be relevant every year, just like their basketball [program] is,” says Kyle Chubb, 19, pre-allied health major from Quakertown. “I think this current team has done too much for the program to [regress] like it has in the past.”

The success that this Temple team has already achieved is arguably greater than that of the 2009 team. Six years ago, despite their success at the time, the team barely filled half the stadium for their home games. Fast forward to 2015 and this team has already sold out two of their home games while shatter- ing attendance records. The 2015 Temple Owls football team is competing at a level that it has never reached before. It’s easy to point to the team’s recent his- tory and argue that this is the apex of success for Temple football. While that may be true, for the first time in the modern era of this program, Owl fans can open their mind to the possibility that this is beginning of a resurgence for Temple football.
The Bucks Centurion Women's Basketball team's season has been cancelled.

Emails have been going out to try and interest people, and the coach and team members have tried recruiting people as well; however, the fact is that there are just not enough players to form a Women's Basketball team this season at Bucks.

On Wednesday, Nov. 4, the decision was made to cancel the season.

The Women's Basketball coach, Lori Sullivan, said, "This was a complete surprise to me, but due to various last-minute conflict the players had to cut basketball," and so they had to cut the season.

She clarified that the issue was not a lack of interest but rather prospective player's injuries and conflicting schedules. She went on to say she was "thankful the girls were honest, I value the honesty of the girls, so it is what it is." Naomi Thompson, 19, who was planning on being a part of the team this year, said, "the coach has been trying to recruit girls since fall sports have ended." She has even been trying to reach the fall volleyball players and soccer players, "but it's just not their thing."

This would have been Thompson's first year playing basketball for the Centurions, but she said, "I was really upset that the season was cancelled because this is the first season I will not be playing basketball since I was 4 years old. Also, basketball gets me in shape." She said that only three women, including herself, ended up coming out to practice and joining, but there are a total of five players for them to be considered for a real basketball team. She said they thought of possibly "moving down to a club team so that we would not have to forfeit the season, but if we do that, then it's too hard to go back up to NJCAA Division III."

For next year, Thompson encouraged students at Bucks or coming into Bucks to "make sure you get your friends to come out next time so that we can actually have a season." She did say, however, that for this season it is too late.

To encourage potential new-comers, she says that "playing a Division III sport is a great opportunity for anyone because it builds their character, they make new friendships, and it looks good for prospective colleges. Plus, it gets you in shape!"

In preparing for next year, Coach Sullivan and her assistant coach, Fredrick Hilliard, are going to "meet up with a game plan to come up with a strategy so that this doesn't happen again."

Although she is discouraged, she has hope: "There are seniors who have reached out to me for next year."

Fredrick Hilliard added, "It is very disheartening to me and to my assistant coach, Fredrick Hilliard, because we want to support Bucks and we cannot do this. This is the first thing we want to do is support Bucks."